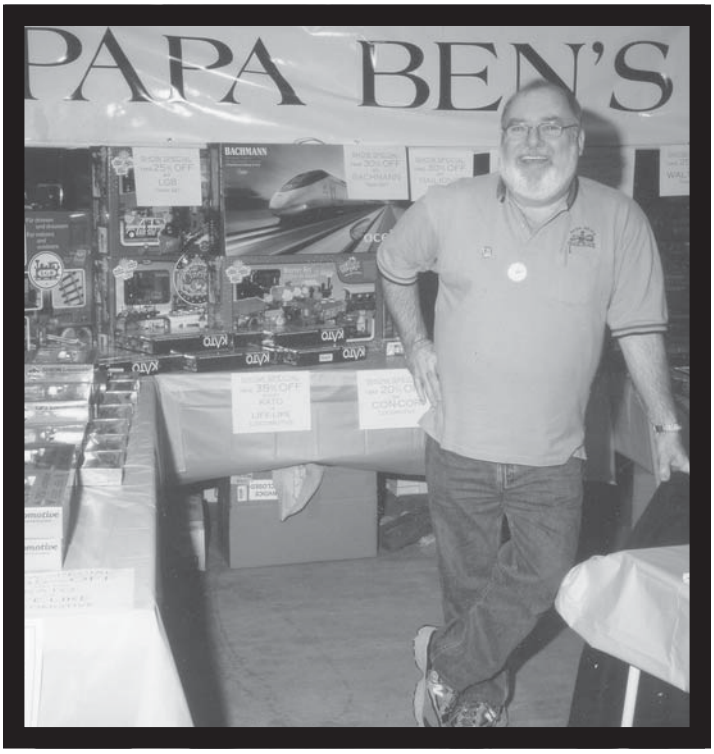
The Marker Lamp

Volume 52 Number 3 Summer 2006



Ben Pearlman 12-06-42 - 06-26-06
Papa Ben we'll miss you.

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The Marker Lamp

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The Lone Star Region of The
National Model
Railroad Association

Volume 52, Number 3

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of **The Lone Star Region** of **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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President's Message

by Jerry Schoenberg, MMR

Hi Fellow Model Railroaders,

Stealing Ideas is a big part of our hobby. Most of us are good in some areas of modeling and need all the help we can get in others. This modeler never had an original idea when it comes to scenery, weathering, scratch building, etc. For this reason, when I give a clinic it is not in these areas, and when I attend a clinic it is in these areas.

Recent timing has been really great for "stealing". Our LSR convention and the National convention in Philadelphia were great venues for these efforts. Layout tours, operating sessions, clinics and prototype tours all lent themselves to gaining ideas. I have learned that pictures and notes are invaluable for later use. I always gain a page of "ideas" at every convention. Maybe it is a weathering technique on a water tower or a different slant on tree building. I find these notes to be very useful when I work on that area at home or at the club.

It never ceases to amaze me how open and helpful modelers are with their expertise. Unlike most businesses, model railroad training includes all trade secrets. As an example, isn't it amazing that the largest commercial DCC decoder installer will give a clinic on how to install DCC decoders. If we are not able to make our hobby grow, it won't be the fault of all our efforts to share and "steal" ideas.

I was very proud of our LSR Convention in San Antonio. We do not take a back seat to the National Convention when it comes to our contest room, tours and youth recognition. The youth awards were a real highlight at our banquet.

This year's National Convention was of particular interest to me. What better place to be than Philadelphia on the 4th of July! As a Pennsy fan, seeing "Pennsylvania Railroad" etched on old buildings, 4 track main lines, PRR bridges, signals, towers and stations all put a little twinkle in my eye and made the teasing in Texas much more endurable. The Convention Center was attached to the old Reading RR train shed which gave a real flavor to the location. Also, when you look around at the Philadelphia buildings, you think you are in Walthers' (Cornerstone) USA. A train cab ride on the Northeast Corridor and a 3800 sq. ft. 3 deck PRR operating railroad rounded out my enjoyment.

The clinics this year included a full series of modeling and operations of steel mills and several clinics aimed at structure scratch building and contest judging. These were particularly helpful to me. Also, I never under estimate the great friendships that are renewed each year at the National Convention. The Lone Star Region was well represented with members and family attending from Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, New Orleans, San Antonio, etc.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our loss of a dear friend, Ben Pearlman. Ben was always present at the conventions and would meet you with a big smile. And yes, I borrowed ideas from him too. Every time I weather a box car, I shall think of Ben. His leadership and many years of service in the Lone Star Region and the National Model Railroad Association will be dearly missed.

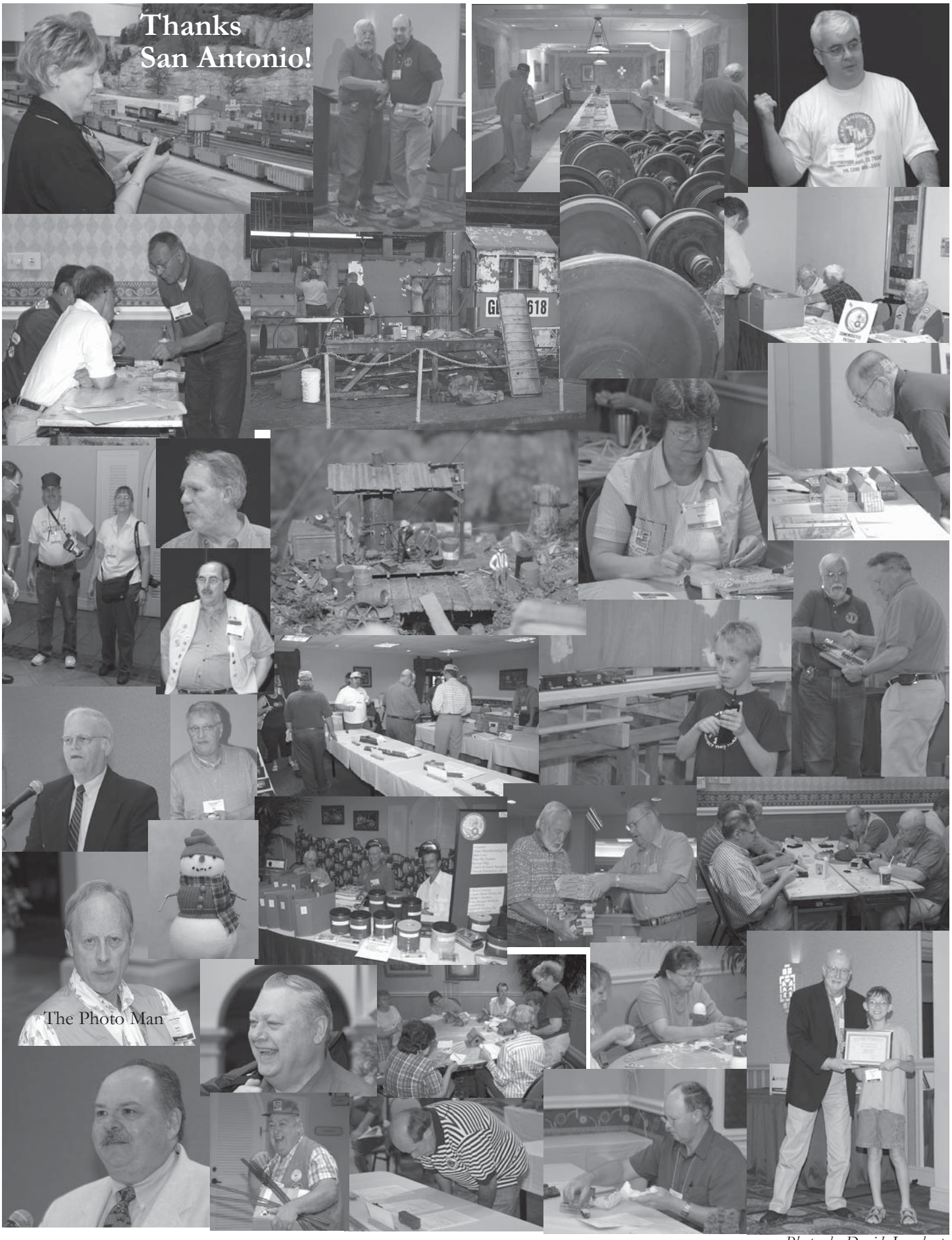
Have a great model railroading summer.

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

Had a great time in San Antonio visiting old friends and making some new ones. When I was setting up the Contest Room a young man came in and asked if he could look around, I didn't know who he was but he had a badge and we welcomed him in. He informed us his name was Kevin and he had won the scholarship to attend the convention and was working on a layout of his own and asked if we wanted to see some photos. He showed us photos of how he removed his bed and built the railroad into the bed frame so he would have room. For those of you how say you don't have room, this young man was willing to sleep on the floor so he could have a layout (he now sleeps on a day bed) talk about dedication. Over the convention Kevin came into the Contest Room several times to study the models (did you?) and asked many questions of myself and others working in the room. Laurie and I met his mother, Karen, and told her if they made it to College Station to give me a call and the railroad would be open for him. Well, they did make a trip to College Station in June and visited the Bush Library and called to see if they could come by. True to my word, I said yes and scheduled the visit. They arrived and Kevin studied each and every detail. I then handed him a throttle and told him to run a train, which he did for the next hour and half. He ran the train and used the whistle at crossings and the bell as he approached the yard. I think he would have spent the afternoon if his parents would have let him.

Why am I telling you this? I goes to show you don't know who you will meet at a convention and if Kevin remains in this hobby and takes it as seriously as the models he studied or as carefully as he ran the train at my house, this may be our next generation Master Modeler. So next time you have a young visitor over, hand him or her the throttle. That may be all it takes to start someone on a lifelong path. I know of at least 3-4 people that told me they visited Gil Freitag and he told them to run a train and they are still running trains many years later.



Convention Happenings!

Photos by David Lamberts

In Memoriam Ben Pearlman

By Loren Neufeld, MMR

Houston's model railroad community was shocked and saddened a few days ago by the passing of Ben Pearlman. For many of us, from the time we entered this hobby, Ben was the personification of model railroading. Not only was he an avid modeler who took great joy in his N scale "Downe & Owlte" Railroad, but he was heavily involved in various modeling organizations, holding many offices at all levels over the years. He was chairman of the NMRA's Services Department; he served in numerous LSR positions including 4 years as President; locally he was active in the San Jacinto Club and was instrumental in founding the Houston N'Crowd. He co-chaired the AstroRail '89 NMRA National Convention which was held in Houston. And even when not formally holding an office, Ben was the face of Houston model railroading to many people around the country and around the world.

Ben began his working career as a cameraman with KTRK TV, but soon formed his own film and production company, to be known as Pearlman Productions. He and his wife Irene together ran this company for 28 years. Throughout his career he received numerous industry awards including many Telly Awards, and in 1989 the University of Houston presented him with its Distinguished Alumni Award.

The business was film production, but his heart and gracious nature provided a train room upstairs, where for years both the Houston N'Crowd and the San Jacinto Club held their meetings. And Ben's publicity skills brought success to many a jamboree or convention. Who could forget the huge throng of modelers standing atop a map of Texas in Ben's studio for an AstroRail '89 promotion! After the sale of the company Ben fulfilled a lifelong dream when he opened Papa Ben's Train Place, a model railroad shop stocked with a wide range of trains and accessories. And he made sure to include a club meeting room and a home for the N'Crowd, and a pleasant railroad atmosphere which made it a popular gathering place for modelers young and old, new and experienced.

All of us have known Ben in one way or another through the years, and his knowledge and expertise have influenced many of our modeling careers. His passing leaves a void in all our lives. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Irene and all the family. Papa Ben, we'll miss you.

Youth Membership Program Update

By Tom Browning

In June of 2005 the Youth Membership Program was restarted. After a bit of going around in circles forward progress finally began. We now have the following young members on board.

Division 1 – Stephen Greif was nominated and approved by the BOD about a month ago. Stephen and his father are active members of the LMRA in Ft. Worth. Stephen is interested in model railroading as well as prototype railroading.

Division 2 – Evan Roider was nominated and approved by the BOD about a month ago also. Evan's interests outside of model railroading are computers and music. He and his familyare active in the United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge. Evan runs trains on his grandfather's three-rail home layout and the club's three-rail layout. Evan also sets up and operates his club's garden railroad.

Division 3 – Adam Wynne was nominated and approved at the January mid-year BOD meeting. Adam and his father attend train shows and the monthly division meetings. Last year he got started in model railroading when he received an HO train set. As a Cub Scout Adam earned his Railroad Safety Patch and now that he is a Boy Scout is pursuing the Railroad Merit Badge.

Division 6 – Joe Mackin was also nominated and approved at the January mid-year BOD meeting. Joe, now 14, and his father have been members of SAMRA in San Antonio since he was 10 years old. Joe has constructed (carpentry, soldering, teamwork and planning) two modules for the club. Joe has also participated in train show exhibits and jamborees in San Antonio. Joe is also a Boy Scout and has earned Merit badges in woodworking, electronics, electricity and railroading.

Division 7 – Kevin Grisham was nominated and approved by the BOD about a month ago. Kevin, his mother and grandmother are active in the North East Texas Model Railroad Club in Longview, Texas. Kevin has designed and built his own HO layout that very uniquely fits into his bed frame (and he sleeps on a day bed now!). He planned and executed a successful Amtrak train trip to the Dallas area for his sister's soccer tournament.

Division 8 – Andrei Loghin was nominated and approved at the January mid-year BOD meeting. Andrei at 11 year old is already an accomplished kit builder and has one of his structures on display at Papa Ben's Hobby Shop in Houston. Andrei is assembling laser cut structures to go on his second layout.

I would like to thank the division directors for making this possible. I am very proud of our young members and the accomplishments they have already made. These young people represent the future of our hobby and our organization. When you come in contact with them, share your knowledge with them and always be prepared to be their mentor. I encourage everyone to bring a young member into the NMRA.

New Members

Please take note of the following new NMRA/LSR members. Get them involved in the LSR and in your Division's activities.

Paul Tassin, Baton Rouge, LA
Evan Roider, Baton Rouge, LA
Charles Baldwin, Conroe, TX
John Hampton, Dallas, TX
Charles Porterfield, Denton, TX
Christy Hays, Denton, TX
Stephen Greig, Fort Worth, TX
Bill Greif, Fort Worth, TX
Roger Hines, Friendswood, TX
Neal Marion, Georgetown, TX
Conrad Tidwell, Gilmer, TX
Robert Stephens, Groves, TX
James Senneff, Houston, TX
Douglas Jones, Houston, TX
Carl Wappel, Houston, TX
Linda Freeman, Irving, TX
Kevin Grisham, Longview, TX
Patricia Schempp, Lubbock, TX
Billy Brossette, Orange, TX
Alfred Purple, Pride, LA
Glen Mears, Ragley, LA
Cathy Mears, Ragley, LA
James Yang, San Antonio, TX
Gavin Chen, San Antonio, TX
Milven Warren, Schertz, TX
Robert McNeill, Spring, TX

Minutes - Lone Star Region Board Meeting San Antonio – June 4, 2006

Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Schoenberg.

ROLL CALL

The following officers were absent.

Director at Large Bob Bray – Assigned Proxy to Div. 1
Director Chris Atkins
Nominations Chair Gary McMills
Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by Doyle Bond, seconded by Bill McPherson and passed by the Board that the minutes of the January 21, 2006 Board meeting be accepted as published in the spring 2006 issue of The Marker Lamp.

REPORTS

President Jerry Schoenberg submitted a written report that noted the sending of The Marker Lamp to all NMRA members within the LSR, highlighted the efforts of the Youth Chair, Tom Browning, and noted the election of new Board members Tracy Mitchell and Ray Byer.

Secretary/Treasurer Elbert Smith's report showed an increase of 3% in the LSR net worth. It now stands at $41,932. The total number of NMRA members in the LSR area is approximately the same as at this time last year. Regarding last year's budget, expenses were approximately equal to the budgeted amount, but income was higher than the budgeted amount by $1071.

Chuck Lind as Contest Chair reported that the contest went over well at this year's convention, but that the number of entries was a little low, approximately 30 pieces fewer than usual. As Publications Chair, Chuck said that ***The Marker Lamp*** has been printed and distributed on schedule. Board members commented on the excellent program presented by Chuck at the previous night's banquet that highlighted the contest and the contest winners. Thanks also were expressed to Duane Richardson for his efforts on the program.

Convention Chair Bill McPherson submitted a written report. He noted the success of the 2006 convention. In general, he emphasized that it is important to maintain control of various items sometimes described as "other expenses". That is, expenses besides the usual hotel, banquet and breakfast expenses.

Dispatcher Eunice Linda's report for the last fiscal year showed that 88 cars had been sold, leaving 886 cars in inventory. She reported that this year's convention sales totaled 35 cars and that 32 cars were passed out during the convention's rolling-stock drawings. The LSR now has 819 cars – 147 HO-scale cars and 672 N-scale cars. At the convention, there were 48 HO-scale and 2 N-scale decals sold.

Historian Jim Long was pleased to report that additional names have been engraved into the MMR plaque. Jim requested that any old or historic LSR photos that members may have be sent to him for the LSR archives.

Election Chair Gary McMills sent a written report that listed the results of the election of officers.

Web Page Chair Duane Richardson said he had been looking into a possible redesign of the LSR logo. The discussion of that was put off until the New Business part of the meeting.

Youth Director's Tom Browning's written report detailed several activities. The Youth Membership Program brought youngsters from six of our Divisions into NMRA membership. A youth scholarship for convention attendance was established by LSR member Bob Brendle. This year it was awarded to Kevin Grisham, a youth member from Division 7. Tom is looking for help to establish a Boy Scout Merit Badge program.

Division 1 Director Chris Atkin's report listed the activities of the division including quarterly meetings and their participation in train shows sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs.

Division 2 Director Jack Green's report noted that, although some division members lost everything and have relocated, it was fortunate that no members were lost in last year's storm. Jack's report described the activities of the division clubs and layouts including the Lake Charles Club located in that city's Children's Museum.

Division 3 Director Duane Richardson had a report that described the monthly division meetings and the annual Division 3 meet held in April 2006. Duane is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a child-oriented operating session in the Garland city Library.

Division 4 Director Bob Alston said in his report that bi-monthly meetings to plan for the 2007 convention have been productive and that planning has gotten further along at this time than he anticipated. The convention will be held in Round Rock, TX.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell's report noted the division's new Youth member, a mini-meet at the Ark-La-Tex clubhouse and the manning of membership recruiting tables at train shows held within the division.

Achievement Chairman Al Boos reported an increase in the number of e-mail messages that he receives with questions about the Achievement program. Most questions are straightforward and are answered quickly. Occasionally he solicits input from Frank Kotch, or refers the questioners to the NMRA web site. Al said that the use of e-mail communications has expedited his work on the achievement program.

OLD BUSINESS

2006 Convention discussion by Gary Maitland - Approximately 237-240 people attended. He emphasized that it is important to stay on top of hotel costs and arrangements. Al Boos said that the convention hotel wanted to check the LSR "corporate history" when discussing payment methods. No history was found for LSR or NMRA at convention hotels formerly used in San Antonio, Houston or Fort Worth. Perhaps this was because each convention used a different name. Building a positive corporate history may encourage hotels to offer better rates. The LSR checking account is named "Lone Star Region NMRA". The Board's consensus was that the convention guidelines should suggest that designation for future conventions.

NMRA Rebate was discussed next. Elbert Smith reported the rebate amount paid to LSR by the NMRA. The yearly amounts are: $2 for all classes of membership except the following; $2 for Life members who joined after a date in the 1990s; $.50 for Life members who joined before that date; and $0 for Family members. Payments are made only for members whose dues

are current on the payment date. That means no payment is received for members whose dues have just expired, but who renew just after the payment date.

Youth Program – Tom Browning described a scrapbook of news clippings he has made. These are clippings of articles that feature Youth members. He also is collecting information to track the progress of the Youth members. Also mentioned were the Golden Spike parties he sponsors when members make a photo scrapbook record of their Golden Spike accomplishments.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of New Officers and Chairmen – Jerry Schoenberg announced the following new positions: Photography Chair, Dave Lamberts; Events Coordinator, Bill Dryden; Division 8 Director, Ray Byer; Director at Large Tracy Mitchell; and Membership Chair David Davis.

Budget Fiscal Year 2006/2007 – Elbert Smith reported the results of last year's budget. Next year's proposed budget then was presented with estimated income of $4619.95 and expenses of $8435.69. Some items, such as income taxes and convention income, have already been processed and the totals have not been rounded. It was suggested to add $250 for Youth Program expenses. This would increase the estimated expenses to $8685.69. There also was discussion about including the LSR ballot in a mailing of ***The Marker Lamp*** to reduce election expenses.

Motion by Elbert Smith, seconded by Chris Atkins and passed that the proposed budget, with the addition of $250 for the Youth Program, be accepted.

Convention Fund Amount – LSR by laws require a discussion of the amount held in the Convention Fund. The consensus of the Board was to keep the Convention Fund at its current amount of $10,169.41.

Future Conventions – Loren Neufeld described the initial planning for the 2008 convention. Then Bob Alston initiated discussion on the possibility of having joint Division responsibility for future conventions – such as a combination of San Antonio and Austin members (Division 4 and 6). There would be a greater number of volunteer personnel available and more convention venues from which to choose. After much discussion by the Board, Bob said that he would make a specific written proposal for the Board to consider.

Convention Access by Out-of-Country and Non-NMRA Persons – There was extended discussion about the pros and cons of allowing convention attendance by out-of-country non-NMRA persons. It was pointed out that NMRA policy requires NMRA membership for attendance at NMRA functions. According to the LSR by laws, LSR policy is that a convention attendee must be an LSR member or their family member, or a member of another NMRA region. There also was discussion about using non-LSR persons as convention volunteers.

Motion by Jack Green, second by Bill Dryden and passed with one dissenting vote that LSR adhere to the LSR by laws provision that convention attendees be members of LSR or their family member, or a member of another NMRA region.

Achievement Program – Someone had voiced concerns about the quality of the submissions to the Achievement Program (AP). Jerry Schoenberg suggested that it may be unfair to put the entire administrative load on the AP Chair. Al Boos discussed how the entries are judged and how he relies on the qualifications and integrity of members in various LSR areas. Al Boos said that he would send a list to Jerry Schoenberg of those people that he knows are qualified to judge AP submissions. Those names then could be publicized to the membership.

Car and Decal Sales – Selection of next year's convention commemorative decal.

Motion by Doyle Bond, seconded by Bill Dryden and passed that the decal for next year's convention commemorate the layout of John Linda, which is named Milwaukee Southwestern.

By Laws Amendment – Because the Board voted in January 2006 to send The Marker Lamp to all NMRA members within the LSR, changes to the by laws are required. Revisions were suggested by Jerry Schoenberg and, after discussion and minor changes to the suggestions, the following statements were proposed.

Article II Section 3 – Change to read, "Annual member service fees for regular members in the Lone Star Region to cover costs of operation of the Lone Star Region including distribution of The Marker Lamp may be established and payable in U.S. funds."

Article II Section 4 second paragraph – Change to read, "Any member of any region of the NMRA outside the Lone Star Region who desires to receive a copy of the official regular quarterly publication of the Lone Star Region, The Marker Lamp, will be required to pay an annual fee of $6.00 payable in U.S. funds, as set forth in Article II, para. 3 above. This fee for The Marker Lamp shall not be construed as a requirement for membership in the Region and only one fee per household will be necessary to receive such publication."

Motion by Bill Dryden, seconded by Don Kimmel and passed that the by laws be so amended.

Marker Lamp – There was discussion of space restrictions when editing The Marker Lamp and the difficulty of timely publication. Chuck Lind will notify Jerry Schoenberg if space limitations prevent inclusion of all the submissions and Jerry will notify the affected authors.

Ballots for 2006

Motion by Don Kimmel, seconded by Bill Dryden and passed to destroy the ballots from the 2006 LSR election.

Mid Year Board Meeting – If required, the mid-year Board meeting will be held January 27, 2007.

The 2006 Lone Star Region Board meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM.

Submitted by Elbert Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

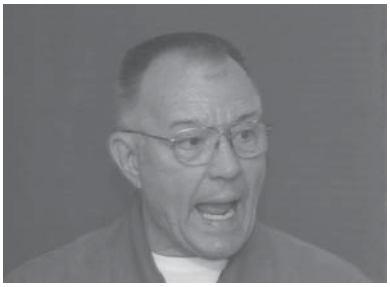


Photo by David Lamberts

Al
Relax it's over.

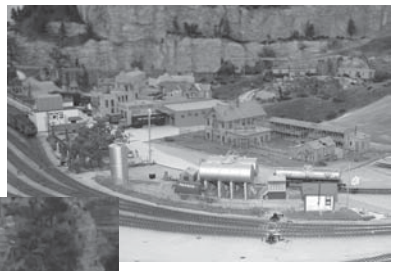
Sam Brendle Scholarship for 2006

By Tom Browning, LSR Youth Chair

Bob Brendle, a member of Division 3, presented **Kevin Grisham** of Longview, Texas and now member of Division 7 with a Certificate of Recognition as the winner of the Sam Brendle Scholarship. As a young boy, Bob and his father Sam attended a Lone Star Region Convention. This early and happy experience endeared Bob to model railroading and to the NMRA. In memory of his father, Bob sponsored the Sam Brendle Scholarship for 2006. This scholarship provided for transportation, lodging and a meal fund for Kevin and his mother **Karen Grisham** to attend the LSR Convention.

Kevin is a remarkable young man. He has converted his bed into a layout and now sleeps on a daybed. Kevin is an active member of North East Texas Model Railroad Club and was nominated by club board member **Conrad Tidwell**. Kevin has planned and executed two trips on Amtrak and one of those trips was to the convention. Anyone visiting the convention layouts knows Kevin is an accomplished operator. He is actively working to earn his Golden Spike Certificate. In the coming months Bob will be preparing for the LSR Convention in 2007. Watch future *Marker Lamp* issues and the website (http://lonestarregion.com) for details.

Thanks SAMRA



Photos of the SAMRA Club layout in the Bob Clarke Building, keep up the good work!

Photos by David Lamberts

Mastering Modeling Yahoo Groups the Real Information Highway.

By MMR's Terry and Tracy Mitchell

The last few months have been very hectic at the TNT households, so we have not been modeling at the workbench very much. First off our Dad is recovering from a stroke and that is keeping Tracy very busy. Terry is no longer exiled on Vancouver Island and has moved to the mainland in Alberta. Acme, to be more precise, near Calgary. Modeling for him has been hard because, he is still unpacking boxes trying to locate his modeling tools. But that doesn't mean we have been idle in our modeling endeavors. We have both been keeping up with Model Railroading on the Internet in general and specifically Yahoo Groups.

This is the greatest thing to happen to modeling since the advent of the X-Acto knife. In the old days, if you had a modeling or prototype question, you would have to contact an expert by phone or snail mail and hope they would be able to steer you the right direction. Now, today all you have to do is a Yahoo search to find a group that pertains to what you want answered. Then join the group, ask your question on the message board, and sit back and wait for an answer. What a remarkable thing. We have learned much more in the last few months than we ever did in the first 2 years of being in the hobby. It's also pretty neat conversing with modelers from all over the US and beyond like Australia and Great Britain, and Canada.

We are not going to go into every group that is on yahoo. That could be a feature column for the next century, but we will give you a view of what we think are the best groups out there, (or at least the ones we frequent the most). Be advised there are countless groups out there on every topic you can think of.... Benchwork, Scenery, DCC [every manufacturer]. Even the old Onboard command control, as well as every prototype railroad that has ever existed. Some have more than one group.

So with that in mind here are our favorite ones we like to look at and post on. Some of these are open to the public and you, in most cases, you do not have to be a member to read the messages in the archives. If you plan on asking questions or browsing the files and photos, then you have to join. The other ones you have to be a member to even read the messages. Also be advised these groups ask you to play nice. Or in other words... "AIf you can't say something nice about someone then don't say nothing at all". Flaming someone is not tolerated one bit, and can banish you real quick for doing so. Most ask you to stay on topic and not stray to far from what the group was created for. Some of these groups can get very active, posting upwards of 40 messages in a day. If you are on even a few it would be a good idea to NOT have the messages delivered to you directly, but instead go to the group site to read them at your leisure.

Continued on page 12

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

CONVENTIONS:

Lone Star Region 56th Annual Convention

Round Rock June 6-10, 2007 Wingate Inn & Conference Center, 1209 N I H 35; Round Rock, TX For more information contact Bob Alston drtrainrba@aol.com; 3405 Southwinds, Lorena, TX 76655.

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS:

Houston Area Live Steamers

Houston, TX Located in Zube Park on US 290 northwest of Houston. On the third Saturday of each month, March through November, the members of Houston Area Live Steamers offer FREE rides to the public on our track. The dates and hours can be found at their website http://www.hals.org For LSR members, call or E-mail anytime for other special dates that you can attend. Contact Peter Bryan peterb@pdq.net or (713) 939-8002.

LSR Division 3 Monthly Meeting

Garland, TX Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Duane Richardson at duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com or check the Division 3 page on the LSR website

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs Meeting

Irving, TX The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the NTC website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or its member clubs. All model railroaders welcome.

SHOWS:

August.

19th New Braunfels Summer Model Train Show 9:00 AM to 4:00PM New Braunfels Civic Center; 380 S. Seguin Street; New Braunfels Brian Weidner, lonestarrailway@yahoo.com

21st – 26th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Durango, CO. Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the San Juan Extension - formerly the Denver & Rio Grande Railway, now the Durango & Silverton, established in 1881; participate in the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Railfest; Ride the Rio Grande Southern Galloping Goose #5. See their Website **www.narrowgauge2006.com/**

September

16th – 17th CentraMod 24th Annual Temple Model Train Show Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mayborn Convention Center; 3303 N. 3rd St.; Temple Contact: Mike Cleveland (254) 587-3077; laurieclevela@earthlink.net

October

7th – 8th 18th Annual Train Show Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak; San Antonio Contact: Alamo Model Railroad Engineers amreshow@satx.rr.com Website: http://www.txtransportationmuseum.org/AMRE.htm

14th – 15th 24th Annual LMRA Train Show Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road, Ft. Worth Contact: www.lmra.org/activity.html Flyer www.lmra.org/railroad/images/Flyer06.jpg

21st – 22nd OPEN HOUSE: Brazos Model Railroad Society Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Bonham Park, Russell & Montana Sts., Bryan, TX Contact: Leonard Ruback lruback@tca.net Website: http://pages.tca.net/lruback/bvmrrs.htm

November

11th – 12th Fort Worth Area Train Show (North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs) Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Amon Carter Hall/Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W Lancaster Ave., Ft. Worth, TX Contact: Joe Pritchett joe.c.pritchett@lmco.com Website: www.dfwtrainshows.com

December

2nd – 3rd 30th Annual Oklahoma City Train Show Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 11am to 5pm Travel & Transportation Building, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, OKC Website: www.okctrainshow.com/

9th – 10th Tulsa Train Show Tulsa Convention Center; 100 Civic Center, Tulsa, OK

January 2007

13th – 14th Dallas Area Train Show (North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs) Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Pkwy., Plano Contact: Joe Pritchett joe.c.pritchett@lmco.com Website: www.dfwtrainshows.com

A Good Year for LSR

By Tom Browning, LSR Youth Chair

The 2005/2006 year was a good year for the LSR. Division Directors recruited six young people into our ranks as Junior Members. At the closing breakfast of the LSR 2006 Convention I had the pleasure of announcing those six: Division 1 – **Stephen Greif**, Division 2 – **Evan Roider**, Division 3 – **Adam Wynne**, Division 6 – **Joe Mackin**, Division 7 – **Kevin Grisham** and Division 8 – **Andrie Loghin**. Stephen Grief (left) and Kevin Grisham (right) attended the breakfast and received a Recognition Certificate and a freight car model. For those young people not attending the convention the division directors were given the certificates and cars to be awarded locally.

These young people are our future and I encourage each LSR member to submit a candidate to his or her Division Director for the 2006/2007 year.

More action from San Antonio

Let's see if I have this straight? Now you want to enter the Arts & Crafts Contest too?

Photos by David Lamberts

Daddy, let's go find more trains!

Light Bulbs for the Mind:Educational News

By Robert "Rocky" Jackson

Late at night listening for the kerthunk of reindeer on top of the roof, father snuck as quietly as he could setting up the new train set for his young son. Wearily crawling into bed he drifted off into a deep slumber recalling days gone by.

Starlight, starbright, oh how I wish for a train tonight. My heart raced hoping against hope that in the morning I would find a train clicking along the oval track highlighted by the twinkling Christmas tree lights. Waking early Christmas morning I raced to my parents' room and dragged them towards the living room. Nervous excitement coursed through my veins mixed with trepidation—what if there was no train? I would be thoroughly disappointed. Walking into the room a series of footprints greeted me. Following the trail left by Santa that wound throughout our house, I finally trekked down the rickety staircase into the basement where I beheld the gleaming Silver Streak racing around the track. These same feelings warred inside me as I approached San Antonio some 30 years later. This was the very first rail convention I was to attend. I wasn't sure what to expect. Would I be disappointed or would I be filled with that same sense of awe and excitement of that Christmas morning many years ago.

Winding my way down the road, I drew closer to my goal. Butterflies in my stomach ensued the closer I came to the registration table. Upon gathering my packet of material I wound my way through the portico till I found the clinic room. Thus, began the first of many clinics at this year's convention.

Having attended a genealogy conference a couple of years ago where everybody stayed in their own cliques, I was happy to discover that model railroaders are a breed apart. More than willing to share tips, techniques, and their wealth of knowledge, they all made me feel most welcome. In fact, I developed lasting life-long friendships in the midst of acquiring so much modeling knowledge. I came away with so many ideas that I can't wait to try them out on my own layout.

Roughly 250 members were in attendance at the conference despite Mic Greenberg's clinics having to be cancelled due to health issues. There were 4 make-and-take clinics including working with white metal, wood, decaling, and soldering. A total of 13 other clinics were given including such topics as detailing your layout like crazy, making trestles and trees, creating control panels, using DCC, adding PFE reefers to your car fleet, discussions about the railroads in and around San Antonio, using mirrors to make your layout look bigger and better, weathering techniques, painting realistic figures, casting rockwork, and how to engage in urban modeling.

Despite blaring music from a wedding reception taking place simultaneously with the banquet, Andy Spirandeo, the executive editor of Model Railroader Magazine, held the rapt attention of the audience as he wove tails of his model railroading experiences with his love of our hobby and people.

Another enjoyable experience for those who have never been to Hall's Hobby House on the corner of Fitzhugh and Bryan Streets in Dallas was the opportunity to meet the granddame of model railroading, Bobbye Hall. Her book discusses the many aspects of her truly phenomenal life. It weaves tales of growing up intermingled with stories of meeting various leaders in the modeling industry. It discusses her various accomplishments of which there is a plethora considering her prominent role of being a trendsetter. She was the "first" in many aspects of the hobby world. She was the first women elected to be on the board of directors of the Model Industry Association. She was instrumental in establishing the Lone Star Region of the NMRA. Besides creating Hallmark Models and raising the quality of brass offerings, she also influenced numerous modelers including such legends as Andy Spirandeo, Cliff Robinson, and Bill McClanahan. Both Ms. Hall along with co-author Tim Blackwell were present to promote their new book. Although hot off the presses could never ring more true as it had only come out 2 weeks prior to the convention, they both willingly autographed the book.

Those who were fortunate enough to tear themselves away from clinics were able to attend a dozen layouts or go on tours. Those that went to the open houses or took the tours walked away with a wealth of ideas or prototypical suggestions to replicate on their own layouts.

For the wives in attendance besides shopping, they had 4 make-and-take clinics of their own. Being in San Antonio there were opportunities to take in local sites and attractions either with friends or with family. Some men were even heard to say that they were jealous of all the fun that their wives were having. So… if your wife thinks there is nothing at all for her to do at a model railroad convention and that has kept you from attending, think again. They will enjoy themselves as well.

If you have never been to a state convention before, I highly recommend that you attend next year's in Round Rock. I know I will be there and look forward to seeing you there as well.

This was the major educational activity that took place in the Lone Star region. Other prominent activities included a program hosted by Division 1 given by Jerry Schoenberg about the AP program. Jerry will be giving a similar program for Division 3 which will be taped and possibly offered for distribution throughout the state. This will be a good service that can be used at train shows as well as among the membership.

Another avenue to look forward to will be the creation of displays to be used at train shows. Working with Tom Browning, the Youth Chair, we hope to develop the Boy Scout Merit Badge program to its fullest potential.

Another idea that all divisions can pursue is to develop a relationship with a community library or organization. Division 3 meets once a month at the Garland library where they hold various clinics. For the entire month of September, Division 3 will be able to show off our hobby to all patrons. In the lobby, they will be able to utilize several display cases. To cap off this exciting educational effort, the last weekend of September will feature several modular clubs setting up their layouts in portions of the library. The library is utilizing the various contacts they have to advertise the event. Besides paying the library back for the free use of their meeting room throughout the year, it gives exposure to children and begins the process of developing a new generation of modelers.

You can look forward to these as well as other new endeavors to educate both members as well as to attract new membership and hopefully garner a new generation of model railroading enthusiasts.

For the Narrow Minded…

By Duane Richardson

The long, hot summer is here and unlike our friends up north, who spend the winter in their basements working on their layouts, we are driven inside to work on ours. While progress is slow at least the DCC is now up and operating on the El Lobo Division. Decoders are going into engines and projects for next year's contest room are already on the drawing board. It's amazing how sure one can be about a project this early in planning. I'm sure come next May when I'm trying to figure out where to start, the project won't seem so easy.

In the last issue I started the topic of unusual cars of the narrow gauge. This time I want to continue the subject and talk about the Gramps Tank Cars. It's not so much that these are unusual cars, but of the tank car fleet these cars really stand out. As narrow gauge modelers, we may have one or two tank cars on our layouts, but during operations the various narrow gauge operations of Colorado saw steady oil traffic. This was traffic from the oil fields to the refineries and road oil, gas and other refined products coming back.

Most of the tank cars were built by the D&RGW in the shops in Alamosa, but weren't owned by the railroad. Union Tank Car Co. (UTLX), Continental Oil Co. (Conoco, COLX and CONX) and General Transportation Co who leased their cars to The Texas Co. (Texaco, CYCX and TCX) owned the cars. The cars were a common sight for many decades on the narrow gauge. For example, oil would be shipped from Farmington, NM to Durango, CO, over the Rio Grande Southern to Ridgway and on to Montrose. From there it would be shipped to Salt Lake City for refining. In 1929, when the Ames slide temporarily shut down the RGS, the tank cars were sent to Salida and transferred to standard gauge cars, which required them to build a transfer station to handle this work. The increased traffic in Salida (35 cars a week from the RGS alone) was one of the primary reasons the new K-37 class locomotives were assigned there.

The tank cars came in 2 different styles. During their initial conversion the UTLX converted between 60 and 66 cars from standard gauge Van Dyke tank cars. They were built with a narrow frame for the 6,000 to 6,500 gallon tanks to rest on. A second type of car was built in which the tank would rest in a saddle that rode on each truck. The bottom of each tank was reinforced and without sills, the draft gear was riveted to the bottom of the car. These were referred to as Frameless Tank Cars.

The Frameless Tank Cars were converted standard gauge Van Dyke Cars that were built between 1908 and 1912. Each car carried 6,500 gallons and while at first they kept their original numbers, they were renumbered twice during their narrow gauge service. In March of 1947, they were renumbered based on what type of heater they had. In February of 1956, they were renumber sequentially (11034-11058).

Tank cars were interchanged frequently in the early years. To transfer the cars from narrow gauge to standard gauge, they would simply change the trucks. This was done until the ICC outlawed the interchange of K series brake equipment after WWII. At this time they kept whatever trucks they had on them and cars would have to unloaded and reloaded instead.

While the tank cars were easy to spot, none were easier than the GRAMPS tank cars. These Frameless UTLX tank cars were leased to the Lafayette "Gramps" Hughes Co. They also built a refinery in Alamosa, which was taken over and renamed the Oriental Refinery Co. Legend has it that Mr. Hughes's grandkids would watch the trains go by and asked which cars were his. This led to the cars being lettered "GRAMPS" shortly before 1940. All of the Gramps cars were frameless cars without the side ladders.

The Gramps cars were hauling oil that was being pumped from the Blanco Basin and sent to Chama via a pipeline that was constructed during the 30's. At Chama, the oil was loaded into tank cars and sent up Cumbres Pass to the refinery in Alamosa. When the refinery closed in 1962, the majority of the narrow gauge tank car fleet was scrapped. Of the cars that survived most were sold to the Floyd W. Reed Co. in May of 1965.

Currently there are a few surviving examples of these cars. One example resides in Central City, CO at the Colorado Central Railroad. One was at Silver Plume, CO, but I do not know of its current location since the operator change at the Georgetown Loop Railroad. The Colorado Railroad Museum hosts 3 cars at present. UTLX 12770 is a Narrow Framed tank car and UTLX 11058 and 55172 are both Frameless (with 55172 being lettered as a GRAMPS car). There are several photographs of the Gramps tank car fleet available online at the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection as well (http://photoswest.org/).

Until next time...keep the boiler full, the fires hot and the wheels on the rails.

Golden Spike Party

By Tom Browning, LSR Youth Chair

I have recently had the pleasure of participating in what I call a Golden Spike Party. Several of us got together at a candidate's home to check his/her submittals against the requirements and take digital photos as we went. The intent is to make it fun for all and to have an enjoyable experience. If everything is in order, the forms are signed, copied and mailed to **Al Boos**, Region AP Chair. While waiting for the certificate, we make a scrapbook that includes the rules taken from the NMRA website, the application submitted and the digital photos taken of everything used to meet the requirements. People are always important so we take photos of the participants as well. Lastly, when the Golden Spike certificate arrives, it goes into the scrapbook as well. This makes great memorabilia to show friends and family…and grandchildren. Recently, **Larry Swigert** and **Stephen Moore** of **Division 3** received their Certificates and were recognized in our monthly meeting. This award (and party) is available to young, old, experienced or not and it is a great way to be recognized and have fun earning it. Try it you will like it!

Continued from page 8

So here are top sites a few from each of us. Sorry, but since we are NGers and scratchbuilders/Model builders these are what we like to look at the most and our focus will be on these groups. This will be a two-part article, eight this time featuring the ones that deal with modeling. The rest will follow in the next issue. They will be primarily prototype and specific scale sites

1) Weathering - This group is devoted to photos and pages of ideas and techniques for weathering models. While the main emphasis is on model railroading and model structures, any discussion pertinent to enhancing the reality of models is allowed. This is a large group having over 1350 members. By far this is the group that we have learned the most from. Topics range on how to weather wood, nail holes/nail heads, styrene weathering, weathering specific kits' etc. In other words anything under the sun on weathering. The message count for June was 160.

2) Railroad Buildings and Structures - Railroad buildings and structures is a great place for the Railroad Modelers to build buildings and structures found along the Railroad, also a great place to pass on ideas, knowledge and to trade or share plans with other modelers of all scales. 630 members. Even though this is a new group it has taken off very quickly becoming more of a place to gather information than Model Structures group. The message count was 134 for June. This is a pretty busy group.

3) Scratchbuilding - The wonderful world of scratchbuilding. Plastic, wood, metal, it can all be covered here. Modelers of any scale and gauge are welcome. The primary focus is on model railroading, but plastic modelers and others that scratchbuild models are more than welcomed. This group has 1000 members. It is another good source of tips and techniques, and as the name applies it is primary for scratchbuilders. The message count here was 40 for June. They average about one a day.

4) Train Tools - Train Tools is where to discuss tools used by the model builder, especially for model RR's. Boat, car, plane and other modelers are welcomed to join too. If Micro-Mark is your favorite catalog, if you have a lathe or mini mill, if you scratchbuild, or if you are new to model railroading then this is your group. They discuss work benches, shop layouts, air brushing and anything related to the construction of models. Members are allowed to buy/sell/trade model tools and tool vendors are allowed one sale post per month and can tell us about new tools anytime! This is a really large group 1400+ members. Surprisingly they had only 32 messages for June.

5) Model Loggers - This list has been created to provide a forum for the discussion of Logging Model Railroads and their equipment. All scales, Nn3, HO, HON3, HON30, S, Sn3, O, On3, On30, On2, 1:20.3 and any others are welcome. We speak Shay, Climax, Porter and Heisler on this list. This group has 425 members and is primarily a modeling logging group. Another group that is not very active only 23 messages for the month of June, but still a good one for tips on modeling logging.

6) Model Structures - This is the place to: Share tips & tricks; to build Model RR Structures; share painting & weathering tips; share photos of structures that you built; share tips for kitbashing and scratch building; Sell or find structures that you need for your layout. This is also a large group over 750 members. While this group is mainly about kits, and plastic ones at that, it is still a good source for information. This is not a very active group. The message count for June was only 18.

7) NGMMG - The Narrow Gauge Mining Modelers Guild is a place for all fans and modelers of mining. Everyone, regardless of scale, is welcome to discuss and share ideas, pictures, techniques, and prototype information on modeling mines and mining - HON30, HON3, Sn2, Sn3, On20, On2, On30, On3, large scale, anyone modeling mines with their narrow gauge. So bring your side dump ore cars, hoppers, and stamp mills and join in the discussion in the NGMMG. 270 members. If you are interested in mining this is the sight for you. Another slow group. They had 9 messages in June. But with the others we belong to this is a welcome site.

8) Model Airbrush - This group is intended for the discussion of airbrush techniques and tools as applied to painting and finishing scale models. Also the group discusses paints, tools, airbrushes, compressors and grit sandblasting. All types of model building - armor, trains, cars, figures, architectural, etc. are welcome. This group has 475+ members and is very good for the novice, as well as professionals, to learn something. This group only had 4 messages for the month of June. Another group slowing down on activity.

To find these groups, as well as others that tickle your fancy, go to the home page for Yahoo groups, http://groups.yahoo.com/ and type in whatever you want to find in the search window. Good general examples to search for are Model Railroad, Narrow Gauge, Trains, or you can get specific and type in ATSF, Missouri Pacific, MKT, Scenery, Rail Operation, etc.

Remember, Yahoo Groups isn't just for railroads, although that is our focus. There are also woodworking, gardening, political groups, and cooking groups. There is even a group for fans of Stompin' Tom Connors. (The good old hockey game, is the best game you can name, and the best game you can name, is that good old hockey game!)

If you have a group that you frequent but was not listed here please feel free to let us know about it. Heck, Chuck might make this a featured column if enough support is generated.

Back to real modeling, not this cyber modeling

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Elbert Smith

NMRA Membership Card Changes

Before last September, "Region Expiration" indicated the expiration date of your separate regional membership. On September 1, 2005, all NMRA members automatically became members of the region in which they lived with no additional dues required. After that date, the "Region Expiration" space was used to note the expiration date of a member's subscription to the regional newsletter. LSR now is distributing our newsletter, ***The Marker Lamp***, to all NMRA/LSR members with no subscription required. When you renew your NMRA membership and do not pay extra for a regional subscription, the "Region Expiration" date will remain the same as it was before renewal. This means that the NMRA "Expiration Date" and the "Region Expiration" date may not agree. Just remember that NMRA membership automatically makes you a member of the region. Headquarters said that they will change the wording on the card to reduce confusion.

LSR Financial Condition:

For the period of April 1 through June 30, 2006:

Beginning Total Gen. Fund	$5,976.40	
Beginning Div. 1 Sub-Account	$1,014.63	
Beginning LSR Gen. Fund Balance	$4,961.77	
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts		$41,467.89
Income – Gen. Fund		
Ad, Dealer	20.00	
Ad, Pike	88.00	
Adjustment – Check Not Cashed	122.00	
Cars, Patches & Decal Sales	557.00	
Conv. 2005 Income	446.00	
Division 1 Income	686.34	
Subscription Income	438.00	
Vanguard (CD Fund)	186.13	
Vanguard (Convention Fund)	116.12	
Vanguard (Life Fund)	114.61	
Subtotal	$2,774.70	
Disbursements – Gen. Fund		
Achievement	7.64	
Cars - Shipping	8.83	
Contest	187.77	
Convention 2005 Expense	50.05	
Convention 2005 Advance	1,000.00	
Convention Projector Equipment	1,419.24	
Historian – Engraving	12.99	
Marker Lamp Print & Mail	1,037.14	
President	75.78	
Taxes (Error, $213.36 Refund Due)	259.00	
Web Site	49.50	
Subtotal	$4,107.94	
Ending Total Gen. Fund		$4,643.16
Ending Div. 1Sub-Account		$1,700.97
Ending LSR Gen. Fund Balance		$2,942.19
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts		$39,448.31

The First Lady of Model Railroading

Bobbye Hall was at the Lone Star Region Convention, in San Antonio autographing her new book *Tracks from Texas to Tokyo.* The 96-year old Mrs. Hall had a 55-year career in the hobby industry with Hall's Hobby House and Hallmark Models, Inc. Her autobiography tracks her life from her early years as a child in Texas through her successful operation of her hobby shop and brass import business. If you are interested in more information about her book visit her website at www.bobbyehallbook.com. Bobbye, thanks for the memories and the many years you supplied all our needs.

June 6-10, 2007
Make plans to attend now!

LSR San Antonio Contest Results

By Chuck Lind, MMR, Contest Chairman

The San Antonio Convention is now history. At this year's convention we tried something a little different during the awards ceremony, we showed a Power Point presentation of all the winning entries. This was very well received by the people I spoke with afterwards. They liked being able to see the winning models to see if they were the ones they voted for. I would like to thank Duane Richardson for making this happen, and David Lamberts for all the photos of the models. This year the amount of entries were down from past years with 31 in the Model, 27 in the Photo, 13 in Arts & Craft, 6 Trains on Stamps and 1 in the Pass contest, for a total of 78 entries as compared to the past few years where we have been averaging 115 entries. So dust off your tools, and get busy building something for next year. We are also planning a *special contest* for next year's convention in Round Rock. So watch the *Marker Lamp* for details.

Models

Steam Locomotive
1. Brian Block – Porter Saddle Tank
2. Harold Bryant – SP T-28 Class 4-6-0

Diesel Locomotives
1. Steele Craver – MKT 308, 318, 320

Traction & Other Motive Power
1. Wayne Hammelman – Milwaukee Electric M-15

Passenger Cars
1. Jerry Hoverson – Colorado Pacific #20
2. Brian Block – Thunderbird Passenger Car

Freight Cars
1. Denny Bullard – ATSF Stock Car
2. Brian Block – Flat into Log Car
3. Jerry Hoverson – Rocky Mt Central Sugar Tank 301

Maintenance of Way
1. Tracy Mitchell – Tres Noche Timber Pile Driver
2. Bob Brendle – Joe Wilhem Water/Tool Car
3. Steele Craver – D&RGW Dump Gon

Cabooses
1. Jerry Hoverson – Rocky Mt Central Caboose 200

Complete Trains
1. Jim Long – GB&W Reefer Train

Off-Line Structures
1. Duane Richardson – Full House Plumbing
2. EJ Merkel – Bulk Oil
3. EJ Merkel – Grain Bin

On-Line Structures
1. Tom Browning – Crane at Mockingbird & Halifax
2. Tom Browning – Sanding Tower
3. Edward Spiller – B&M Ball Signal

Bridges & Trestles
1. George Fogg – Trestle being repaired
2. Byron Spampinato – Rickety Old Bridge
3. Brady McGuire – Double Track Deck Bridge

Displays
1. David Davis – Wendell's Sawmill

Trains on Stamps
1. Tom Browning – Bridges around the world
2. Tom Browning – Thomas goes to Fiji
3. Tom Browning – A Salute to Tanzania Railways

Passes
1. Chris Atkins – Camas Prairie Railroad

Prototype Photos – Black & White Prints
1. Chris Atkins – Cleaning Flues
2. Robert Mitchell – Forgotten & Restored

Prototype Photos – Color Prints
1. Charlie Kirk – Driver
2. Robert Mitchell – Restoration at a glance
3. Robert Mitchell – RIP "Rust in Peace"

Model Photographs – B&W Prints
1. Chris Atkins – High Line
2. Chris Atkins – Walla Walla Valley Car Barn

Model Photographs – Color Prints
1. Chris Atkins – D&RGW 460
2. Chris Atkins – Prairie Skyscraper
3. Robert Mitchell – Fire on the horizon

Arts & Crafts

Railroadiana
1. Tracy Mitchell – Promontory Point Counted Cross Stitch
2. Reba Byer – Stained Glass Train
3. Brenda Stewart – Santa Fe Apron

General Other
1. Carolyn Spiller – Heavenly Hearts
2. Paula Packer – Santa with Toys
3. Patricia Willis – Toy Wreath

General Needlework
1. Tracy Mitchell – Blue House Counted Cross Stitch
2. Brenda Dickmann – Cross Stitch Quilt
2. Brenda Dickmann – Cross Stitch Cabin
3. Tracy Mitchell – Needlepoint Rose Sampler

Theme
1. Patricia Willis – Lesson at the Mission School

Arts & Crafts Most Popular
Paula Packer – Santa with Toys

Arts & Crafts Best of Show
Carolyn Spiller – Heavenly Hearts

Participation
Brian Block – 3 entries totaling 268 points

Best Kit Built
Brian Block – Grandt Line Porter Kit

Architecture Award
Byron Spampinato – Rickety Old Bridge

Tree Award
David Davis - Deciduous Tree on Display

Bob Clarke Logging Award
Tracy Mitchell – Tres Noches Timber Pile Driver

Most Popular Model
Brian Block – Thunderbird Passenger Car

Novice Best of Show
George Fogg – Trestle being repaired

Best of Show Model
George Fogg – Trestle being repaired

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

I hope you all are staying cool this summer. I'm going to keep this quick because as this report is due, I am on vacation in the Northwest. Like most of our family's vacations, there is at least a couple railroading activities along the way. This year we managed a couple steam excursions: the narrow gauge Cumbres and Toltec and the standard gauge Heber Valley Railroad in Utah. We also visited the Pikes Peak Cog Railroad.

I also spent several days railfanning and researching my prototype Camas Prairie Railroad in Northern Idaho. The trip culminated in a 3 mile hike up Lapwai Canyon to the largest wooden trestle on the railroad - Half Moon Trestle. This line was made famous in the movie "Break Heart Pass." You can visit my website www.camasprairierails.com for some photos of the trestle. Besides the large curved trestles, we crossed 6 other wooden trestles and walked through 2 tunnels to get there. Two years ago I make the slightly longer hike from the top which has another 5 tunnels and 6 trestles

The trip also gave me the chance to visit another Camas Prairie Modeler in Moscow, Idaho and operate on his railroad. Visiting this friend made me appreciate the strength of our model railroading community in Division 1. This college town is home to exactly 2 model railroads.

Of course, since my last report, we had our annual convention in San Antonio. This was a very successful convention from everything I could tell. I was glad to see that division 1 had several in attendance. If you didn't get a chance to attend, hopefully you can make the convention next year in Austin.

Also, in the last quarter we had our regular meeting at the LMRA administration building. Jerry Schoenburg put together a very impressive presentation of his experience in obtaining his Master Model Railroader certificate. This was very informative and will hopefully get a few of us off dead center and working towards this achievement.

Also, we had the pleasure to host the premier unveiling of Bobbie Hall's memoirs. It was wonderful to have this first lady of model railroading visit us again at our quarterly meeting. If you didn't get a chance to pick up one of her books, take a look in the Cowcatcher Roundup for information on ordering a copy.

If you are interested in presenting a clinic at an upcoming meeting, please contact me. Also, start thinking about clinics for the Ft. Worth and Plano train shows.

The next quarterly meeting will be August 19th at the LMRA administration building from 10AM to noon. I hope to see you all there. If you need more information or explicit directions please send me an email at chris@railroadmodelers.com.

Bayou Division 2

by Jack Green

Another fine production of the annual "LSR Convention" has been put in the can, as they say in "sho-biz" circles. A great big round of applause to those dedicated soles who did a magnificent job on this years event. Thanks to you all. Linda and I had a ball.

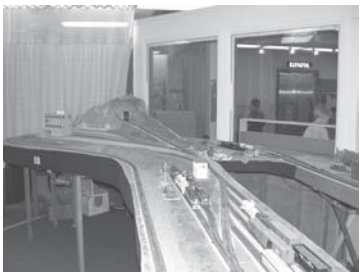
Evan Roider , Division 2 Youth member is shown receiving a Certificate and LSR model from Bob Schilling, Division 2 Youth Director as Evan's Grandfather Karl proudly looks on. (l to r, Karl, Evan & Bob). All three are very active members of the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders Club that meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Additional information concerning the club can be seen at: http://www.dovetailstudio.com/trains/

James Clark submitted the following information about a fine layout being constructed in Lake Charles, LA. The Lake Area Model Railroaders continue working on there new model railroad. The SweetLake & Gulf is located in the Children's Museum, 327 Broad Street, in downtown Lake Charles, La.

We have concentrated on getting the loop as we call it finished 1st. The loop consists of two islands, along with several passing sidings and lots of industry tracks for switching. Most of the track on the loop has been finished; all mainline switches and industry tracks will have Tortoise switch machines. Lots of scenery work has been completed, we have finished a mountain complete with rock castings and a 3 track tunnel. Scenery work continues on other parts of the loop as buildings are finished and placed in place. On March 11, the Sweetlake & Gulf was opened to the visitors of the Children's Museum. Visitors can push a button, which will activate a timer, and the train will run the loop for approximately 6-7 minutes. So far, the response by the visitors to the Children's Museum has been great, and since the railroad was opened to the visitors, attendance has jumped 30%.

The main feature of the loop will be the BTS, McCabe Lumber Company, Slatyfork Sawmill Complex. Buildings included in the scene will include the main sawmill, planning shed, power house, drying kiln, and the log dump, and of course the log pond. Mike Leger is assembling the complex and does an incredible job of painting and weathering.

Phillip Leger is building one of his famous bridges; he is currently building the old Lake Charles & Northern RR Bridge. This bridge was located in North Lake Charles on the Calcasieu River and carried the old SP branch line to Deridder and Alexandria, La.



We started on our new railroad in March 2005; it's hard to believe the progress we have made in the past year. It seems like we just started on it yesterday, and with Hurricane Rita shutting us down for about 2 months, we are proud of what we have accomplished. Work sessions are held every Tuesday night and on Saturdays. The enclosed photograph shows the layout and viewing area at the Children's Museum. If you are ever passing through Lake Charles and want to see the layout, stop in at the Children's Museum. I can be contacted at JClark6747@cox-internet.com

North East Texas Division 3

by Duane Richardson

Another LSR Convention has come and gone. If you didn't make it to San Antonio you missed another really good show. I'd like to take a quick moment to give a pat on the back to the Division 3 members who entered the model contest at the convention. Division 3 placed and or won all but 3 of the modeling categories, including a Division 3 sweep of Online Structures. George Fogg's trestle not only won it's category but won Novice Best of Show and Best of Show. Way to go George!! I'll admit that I spent most of my time helping out in the contest room but what clinics I did see were very well done and I learned a few tricks that I'll be using on the P&DR soon. My thanks go out to all of the folks who made the convention possible. I hope that you all are planning for Austin next year. Not only are these shows a good source to learn a few things but it's also a chance to see some really nice layouts and most importantly see some old friends that you might not get to see but once a year.

As for the local scene we are still holding our monthly meetings at the library. We are meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the library in Downtown Garland. For more in formation please see the Division 3 page on the LSR website. We had a really nice turnout in June and I'm hoping that we can build on that for the coming months. August will see the deadline for the Annual Modelers Challenge. We have a lot of space and I hope to see a lot of Square Foot Projects. We will also pick a project for next years Challenge so be thinking of a subject.

At little further down the track…Division 3 will be hosting a train show at the Garland Library September 23rd and 24th. We have 3 clubs that have agreed to set up their modular layouts along with clinics and the Time Saver Contest. This is being set up as a Thank You to the library for giving us the room each month. It's a draw for them for the kids, for us to expose new people to our hobby and a chance for the club guys to set up and run the layouts before the up coming train show season. I hope that you can come by and see us. If you would like to help or do a clinic I'll take all the help I can get. Since our audience will be mostly non-modelers the clinics can be from the very basic on up. We are hoping to turn this into an annual event and do it in July instead of in the fall. We will have the display cases in the lobby of the library available to us for the entire month of September so if you have something you would like to show off please contact me and I'll coordinate that with you and the library.

We are still sending out a couple of emails each month about the meetings. If you aren't getting these please let me know so we can get your email address.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bob Alson, Jr.

It's been a couple of months since I returned from the convention in San Antonio. It was another great one! Gary Maitland and his committee really set the bar high for the Round Rock group. However, I think that division 4 is equal to the task. As you know we have been meeting regularly and much planning is going on.

A few of the events to look forward to are a Thursday evening train ride on the Bertram Flyer- complete with a box supper to take on the train and a light snack with drinks at the Bertram depot . This will in itself be a huge time of fun. But wait there's more! We have been in contact with the Georgetown Railroad and they are willing to give us a tour of their facilities. Now that's livin' right. You can thank committee member **Paul Angenend** for that arrangement. We are also in the process of arranging another prototype tour that will be quite impressive.

Of course we will have Operating sessions, beginning on Wednesday night and repeating on Friday evening. As you know, there are many top shelf operating layouts in the Austin area. The two quality layouts that the SA convention had to use for Ops are just a start to what is available. I know that **Jack Merkel** will be hosting a session or two and hopefully many other well known layout owners will be generous enough to host a session. Yes there will be over 40 clinics to attend- but you won't be able to make them all. Yep, the choices will be tough. The subject matter will be broad and given by many very capable and enjoyable presenters.

The home layout tour will be second to none as there are even more layouts to tour that there are to operate. I think the committee has counted as many as 20 or more tourable layouts. It will be worth buddying up with someone to be able to get to as many as possible. Don't forget the extraordinary number of great spots from which to railfan. There is always action at the spots which will be highlighted in our booklet that will be in the registration packet.

The non-rails are planning an extensive program too. The topics for their many clinics will be numerous and a small change

from the past. Of course, no convention is complete without at least one shopping trip and the Hill Country Special is not the exception. Pack your shopping bags to be ready to head to Salado. This is a quaint town, is known for the Stagecoach Inn Restaurant, but also for its many neat antique and fun filled shops. It will be a special time. If that isn't enough, the Outlet Mall in San Marcos is newly expanded and always offers something for everyone.

I hope that you can see that we will have an outstanding time in Round Rock, June 6 through 10, 2007 at the Wingate Inn and Conference Center. It will certainly be worth the registration and the taking of some vacation time to be able to make it to all of the enjoyment. I haven't covered all of the activities, but will do so by sending out e-mails the way the "Tracks to the Alamo" group did. If you didn't receive those, you missed the previews of the party. If you don't want to miss out on the previews for the Hill Country Special and you didn't receive those announcing the last convention, let me know of your desire to be in the know by sending me and e-mail letting me know you want to be on the list. My e-mail is drtrainrba@highes.net.
Happy Railroading!

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

Things have been very quiet around Division Five from the time of my last epistle. I did have the privilege of being asked to serve as LSR photographer for the San Antonio convention. I will use my space here to make some observation regarding that task.

1) Photographing a convention is harder than I thought it would be.
2) Every single person I photographed was understanding, gracious, and patient.
3) I discovered I could really use one new lens!
4) The quality of the photo contest models needs to be improved upon. I had trouble with a suitable backdrop.
5) It was difficult to do a good job photographing the awards banquet. Next year I will put an "X" on the floor for the presenter and receiver to stand on.
6) It is probably best to only have one photographer at the awards banquet.
7) The photographs should be disseminated to anyone who wants them.
8) With #7 in mind, please let me know if you would like a CD with the images burned on it. I have two – one of the models in the contest room and a second of the convention itself. My e-mail address is DavidWL1944@aol.com.
9) If I get the OK from the board-of-directors and the chairman of the convention next year, I would like to make a PowerPoint presentation of the convention from 2006 since many of the attendees will otherwise never get to see any of the photos.
10) Please e-mail me with suggestions, concerns, criticisms, etc.

Division 6

by Doyle Bond, MMR

Division 6 activities during past several months were devoted mostly to the planning and execution of the LSR annual convention. A very successful convention I must say. In the distant future I am sure people will shout "Remember the Alamo" (Tracks to the Alamo, I mean).

I was set-up at the SAMRA Summer Family Train show to enroll new NMRA members and also held a NMRA Model Contest. I will be at the New Braunfels Summer Model Train Show with a booth to get new NMRA members. I will also have a NMRA Model Contest. Then in October, AMRE will hold their 18th Annual Fall Train Show. I already have commitment for the 7th, but I will have a booth set-up on the 8th.
That's all for now, I gotta go play with my trains, Doyle.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Greetings from Hot North Louisiana, summer is here with a vengeance….typical! It is now the time to do all your indoor stuff, just the opposite from our "Northern" brethren! They go inside in the winter; we do it in the summer. O well, anytime is good to play trains!

Well, I am sure everyone that attended this year's convention had a great time, Gary, Doyle and their many, many Volunteers but on one great show!! As far as I am concerned, everyone had a good if not great time! The workshops and clinics were wonderful, the tours super, and the operations killer! I saw Bob Clark's wonderful layout, in fact my UTE (youth) member got to do some operations on it..Kevin had a ball!! The Hotel was great, and the food was good—a bit on the expensive side, but I think worth it—even the bar was very socialible—maybe it was David, I don't remember. So I am sorry if you missed it, but you should plan on next years in Bob Alston turf—Round Rock.

Happenings around here—The Ark-La-Tex group was set up 3 weeks at the Shriner's Hospital, and everyone had a good time, the smiles on the many little faces is all the reward you need! If there are any other modular groups around looking for some summer locations, go ahead and approach your local hospital and see what happens, you never know, all they can say so no.

The folks who attended the 25th Kansas City Southern Hysterical (on purpose) Society had a treat this year…a train

ride!! The wonderful management of the KCS put their Business Train at our disposal for a short round trip…about 4 and a half hours worth. They included some of the newly acquired cars—the two (2) dome cars—"Mississippi River and Columbia River" and the theater car—the "Arthur Stillwell". So the KCS now has two domes…fun, they are now in the process of being repainted and upgraded, it seems the a/c is now up to "southern" standards, etc….It was a whole lot of fun. I had the privilege of feeding 160 souls on a moving train, I now have great admiration and respect to all those past chefs—let me tell you it is not easy…lucky for me the KCS Chef, Hugo, was on board to offer constructive criticism, plus he gave me some very helpful hints….Do you know how to prevent a boiling pot of water from sloshing all over the stove? Ask me, and I will tell you, but I did not burn anybody, can't say much for the floor, etc…. who said model railroading is not a learning experience!

Other goings on…Do not forger the upcoming Tyler, TX. Cotton Belt Historical Society show, last weekend in October this year. This is a show that is coming back after a couple years absence; it reminds me of the JETT'S Longview Show, not real big, but some good vendors and layouts, plus that "East Texas" hospitality!

Also, upcoming, the T&P Station's Marshal Show, early in November. There is a lot going on in East Texas this fall!

That is about it, so everyone keep cool as you play away, and I will see you later.

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

This is my first Division 8 report with more to come in the future. First I have some sad news to report to those that may not know yet. A fine fellow N-scaler, friend, and past LSR President passed away on June 26, 2006. Bennett (Ben) Seymour Pearlman aka "Papa Ben" affectionately named by his grandson. His presence will be sadly missed.

There is some news about Division 8's plans for the 2008 Convention is moving ahead at full speed.

Local news:

Union Pacific Railroad had a derailment on the Sunset line east of Houston. This closed Hwy 90 for three to four days while repair and clean up was taking place.

Two new steam engines came in to the Port of Houston from China in June. They were shipped some where outside of Texas. A rumor has it that, if the first two sell fast, three more may be ordered.

San Antonio put on a great Convention, which was enjoyed by a lot of people from this area. This ends my first Division 8 report.

FROM THE PAST (Summer 1981)

By Jim Long, MMR LSR Historian

At the LSR Convention held in Dallas, the following special contest winners were: **BEST OF SHOW:** Lloyd Keyser – CNW Steam Generator Car **BEST KIT-BUILT MODEL:** Don Broostor – Schramm Manufacturing M**OST POPULAR MODEL:** Virgil Young – Picayunne #1 **AIA ARCHITECTURAL AWARD:** Jim Packer – Durty Dehidrated Water Co. **AIA TREE AWARD:** Joy Buchanan **NMRA HEADQUARTWERS BUILDING:** Ben Pearlman **TEXAS SHORT LINES AWARD:** Stewart Bogard (9 yrs. Old)–Washout at Letherwood Creek **RAILETTE LANTERN AWARD:** Paula Young – Ida Rickett's Boarding House

Three new Master Model Railroaders were introduced at the annual business meeting of the LSR. They are: Cyril S. Durrenberger, MMR # 88; W. Miles Hale, # 90; and Gilbert A. Freitag, MMR # 91.

The new LSR President, Ed Quin of Houston, announced the following committee chairmen to serve for 1981-1982:

Miles Hale, Marker Lamp Editor
Jim Long, Publication
Kenneth Caulking, Membership
Gilbert Freitag, Contest
Lawrence Redmond, Convention
Dr. Howard Van Auken, Historian

Due to John Lowrance being elected Vice President, the Board of Directors elected C. L. 'Chuck' Ellis of Austin to fill out John's unexpired term as Area 3 Director.

Area 4 Director Ben Pearlman made a motion, seconded by Vernon Ball, that we authorize President Ed Quin to vote 'NO' on the NMRA proposal for single dues for NMRA and the Regions and further we would not like to see this proposal come up again for many years.

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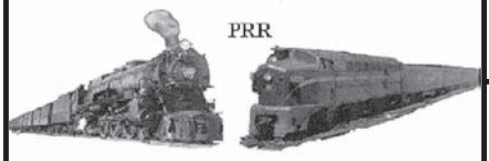

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